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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT [REDACTED] 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg and the Templin Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 10 November 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At about 8 a.m. on 15 October 1953, 8 JS-1 tanks, [REDACTED] 6 JS-3 tanks, [REDACTED]; and truck [REDACTED] occupied by troops were entrained at the Templin railroad station and left toward Berlin. 1

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2. Columns passing through Templin, coming from the direction of Kannenburg and proceeding toward Prenzlau, between 6 and 9 October included:

At about 1 p.m. on 6 October, 3 trucks with trailers, [REDACTED]

at about 1:30 p.m. on 7 October, trucks [REDACTED]  
each occupied by about 20 troops;  
at about 1:30 p.m. on 9 October, trucks [REDACTED]  
loaded with billeting equipment. 2

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3. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 5 October, 10' x 57-mm AT guns were entrained at the Zehdenick railroad station. Trucks [REDACTED]

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were identified. Prior to about 9 p.m., heavy shuttle traffic of trucks, almost all of them loaded with billeting equipment, and driven by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was observed between the Zehdenick railroad station and Vogelsang. Between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 6 October, truck [REDACTED] loaded with billeting equipment were seen en route toward the Zehdenick railroad station. 3

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4. On 15 October, two buildings and the so-called headquarters building of the barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang were occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Numerous officers were seen entering and leaving the headquarters building. The kitchen was in operation. At about noon, about 75 soldiers were seen receiving meals. [REDACTED] the bakery would be equipped with 4 ovens; 2 ovens had already been installed and were to start operation within the next days. Flour had already arrived. On 15 October, about 45 T-34 tanks were seen, with 10 tanks sheltered in each of 4 tank sheds and 5 tanks between the sheds. [REDACTED]

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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[redacted] Fatigue details of 4 to 10 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets cleaned the barracks area and the buildings. 25X1  
 [redacted] the cleaning also involved the east section of the barracks installation, in which construction work was still under way. At about 5 p.m. on 15 October, Colonel Zemorov (fnu) was seen leaving the headquarters building. 25X1  
 Individual trucks, loaded with billeting equipment and other equipment, were seen en route to the barracks installations, coming from the direction of Camp Vogelsang.

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Between 9 and 15 October, two buildings in the east section of the barracks installation were being stuccoed and the interior of all other buildings was being completed. The foundations for 5 small wooden buildings, which were to serve as officers' billets, were under construction in the southeast corner of the barracks area. [redacted] the Bauunions would leave immediately after the completion of the construction project. On 13 October, 2 Diesel engines were shipped away. In addition to the abovementioned trucks, trucks [redacted]

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[redacted]  
 were employed at the construction site as previously.  
 Motor vehicles [redacted]

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were seen en route to and from the barracks installation. 4

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6. At about 9 a.m. on 29 September, a column of 20 tank trucks, [redacted] 25X1

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passed through Zehdenick, coming from the south and proceeding toward Templin. On 1 October, the same column was seen about 5 km northeast of Zehdenick, coming from Vogelsang and proceeding toward Zehdenick. At about 2 p.m., on 30 September, a column of 20 trucks, [redacted] and each occupied by about 30 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and steel helmets and armed with submachine guns, passed through Zehdenick, coming from the direction of Klein Mutz, about 3.5 kilometer southwest of Zehdenick, and proceeding toward Templin. [redacted] of 25X1

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[redacted] At about 7 p.m. on 5 October, a train of 25 flatcars, carrying 25 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, was seen at the Loewenberg railroad station, proceeding toward Zehdenick. 25X1

[redacted] A shipment, [redacted] was seen at the Zehdenick railroad station, proceeding toward Templin at about 9 p.m. on the same day. 6 At about 8 p.m. on 5 October, troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying arms and equipment were unloaded from 6 boxcars at the Zehdenick railroad station, 25X1

were picked up by 20 trucks, [redacted] and left toward Templin at about 8:20 p.m. (C-2) At about 6 p.m. on 6 October, a column of 20 trucks, [redacted] and 10 heavy prime movers [redacted] passed through Zehdenick, coming from the direction of the Zehdenick railroad station and proceeding toward Templin. At about 9 a.m. on 8 October, 10 trucks, [redacted] were unloaded from 10 flatcars at the Zehdenick railroad station and left toward Templin. 25X1

Between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on 16 October, an advanced combat practice firing was held at the Harmelspring firing range for the first time after a rather long interval. Reports of guns of heavy calibers were heard and, after 2 to 4 seconds, were followed by the noise of the impact. [redacted] 25X1

the emplacement was about 3 to 4 kilometer from Zehdenick. [redacted] no major exercises have so far been held in the Templin-Zehdenick area in 1953, as the entire training area had usually been cordoned off during major exercises. 25X1

[redacted] 2

7. [redacted] beginning about 20 September, the units stationed in Camp Vogelsang engaged in exercises in the Templin training area and vicinity. Contrary to the fall maneuvers in 1952, the present exercises involved only rather small elements of troops. Between 28 September and 3 October, about 20 tanks were emplaced and camouflaged with nets, grass and bushes. On and after 3 October, the first troop units returned to Camp Vogelsang from the exercises. Immediately after their return, elements were entrained and left for the Oranienburg, Prenzlau and Eberswalde posts. [redacted] about 40 percent of the troops were to transfer to their posts and about 60 percent were to stay at Camp Vogelsang during the winter and that, for the Oranienburg and Prenzlau posts, 21 officers' clubs and messes for EM had been established in Camp Vogelsang. Alcoholic beverages were served only on Saturdays and Sundays. 25X1

8. [redacted] 30 percent of the troops from Oranienburg were to return to the post on and after 3 October, with the bulk of the units going to the Heinkel settlement and small elements to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. 25X1

9. [redacted] tanks, armored scout cars and motorcycles were entrained at the Vogelsang railroad station on 7 October and during the night of 9/10 October. 25X1

[redacted] the area of the entraining station and the woods on either side of the Templin-Zehdenick railroad line in the Vogelsang area had been covered by anti-Soviet Russian-language leaflets which had been picked up by small Soviet details. 2 25X1

10. On 5 October, a column of about 15 trucks, [redacted] 25X1

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and carrying boxes and troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets passed through Oranienburg, coming from the direction of Berliner Allee and proceeding toward the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. On 8 October, a column of 6 sidecar motorcycles [ ]

[ ] occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was standing on Berliner Allee. Details of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets unloaded billeting equipment, other equipment and ammunition boxes from barges at the Havel quai in Oranienburg. The unloaded materiel was stored on the quai and guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. [ ]

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Two more barges were unloaded on 9 October. No unloadings were observed on 14 October; the unloaded materiel was no longer seen there. On 14 October, the officers' club in Oranienburg Schuetzenhaus was refurbished. About 7 October, a second Soviet textile store was opened on Bernauer Allee under the designation "Magazine 11". At about 8 a.m. on 8 October, a shipment of 4 flatcars with sideracks with JS-3 tanks [ ] and T-34 tanks [ ] was unloaded at the Oranienburg railroad station; it had arrived from the direction of Gransee. The T-34 tanks left toward Oranienburg-Eden. On 5 October, BA-64 armored scout car [ ] was seen at the intersection of Bernauer Allee and Sachsenhausener Strasse/Lehnitzer Strasse. On 3 October, a 76-mm field gun was seen on the Wandlitz-Bernau road, about 1 km east of Wandlitz. Trucks [ ] with German drivers, were employed as supply vehicles for the commissaries in Camp Vogelsang. 2

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11. [ ] the new barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang were located about 200 to 300 meters southwest of the former troop camp and included the entire winter camp. No other construction projects were under way in this area. The winter camp had not been completed by the target date of 15 October. [ ] only one of the one-story wooden buildings of the cantonment for the workers was to be dismantled after the completion of the construction project, while the other buildings were to serve as depot for the Soviet Army. Eight of the buildings of the winter camp had been built in 1952, had previously been occupied by the Soviet Army and were now being reconditioned. Ten buildings had been newly erected. About 1,500 workers were employed in construction work there. The management of the work was in the hand of the Special Construction Staff V, to which belonged the Fuerstenberg and Gara special construction bureaus. The technicians of the Eberswalde special construction bureau were employed with the Fuerstenberg special construction bureau. [ ]

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1. Comment. [ ] tank units of the 82d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div were entrained and possibly transferred to Eberswalde. [ ]
2. Comment. The arrival in Oranienburg of advance details of units of the 25th Tank Div; the columns, probably of the division, which, from the Templin troop training grounds, presumably went to the posts; and the loadings and unloadings in Vogelsang and Oranienburg respectively confirm the known transfer of the division to Oranienburg and Prenzlau on and after 5 October. [ ]

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Major exercises of the 25th Tank Div and the 6th Gds Mecz Div were conducted between 2 and 5 October south of the training area and extending as far as west of Bernau; after the completion of these exercises, elements of the first mentioned division moved to the posts and other elements left for Vogelsang and, from there, moved to Oranienburg.

The units [redacted] in Zehdenick on 5 and 6 October, probably were elements of the division returning from the exercises. The unit detrained in Zehdenick on 8 October possibly belonged to the 6th Gds Mecz Div, which presumably continued to rotate troop units from the posts to Templin for exercises. It is not impossible that the advanced combat practice firing on 16 October was conducted by this division.

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3. Comment. The loadings [redacted] involved units of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US). [redacted] three shipments of the brigade went from Zehdenick to Bernau as late as 7/8 October whereas, [redacted] the first elements arrived in Bernau by road and rail on 5 October [redacted]

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4. Comment. [redacted] the barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang is occupied by the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div with the known commander Colonel Zemenov or Zemyanov (fnu). Thus, the 162d Tank Regt of the division [redacted] may be stationed at the Vogelsang summer camp, or in Oranienburg, possibly in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp or the Weisse Stadt settlement.

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5. Comment. [redacted] belongs to the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div, [redacted] in Vogelsang until 6 October 1953. [redacted] belongs to the 20th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 25th Tank Div in Prenzlaue.

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6. Comment. Probably a shipment of armored personnel carriers from the USSR, presumably for a unit of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army or the KVP.

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